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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,403	02/25/2002	Stanislaw Andrzej Wieclawski	LEAR0958PUSA	8791

34007 7590 08/14/2003

BROOKS & KUSHMAN P.C. / LEAR CORPORATION
1000 TOWN CENTER TWENTY-SECOND FLOOR
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075

EXAMINER

NELSON JR, MILTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,403

Applicant(s)

WIECLAWSKI, STANISLAW
ANDRZEJ

Examiner

Milton Nelson, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

The preliminary amendment filed January 8, 2002 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information referred to in the information disclosure statement filed July 10, 2002 has been considered with the exception of DE 19836919, G 8714045.4, and 1889716.

The information disclosure statement filed July 10, 2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Note the above listed documents. These documents have been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

The information disclosure statement filed on July 10, 2002 does not fully comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98 because: Note above. Since the submission appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH** from the date of this notice to supply the above mentioned omissions or corrections in the information disclosure statement. **NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME LIMIT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER**

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EITHER 37 CFR 1.136(a) OR (b). Failure to timely comply with this notice will result in the above mentioned information disclosure statement being placed in the application file with the noncomplying information **not** being considered. See 37 CFR 1.97(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In line 4 of claim 1, "the pivot point (S)" lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 4, "the normal state" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, the phrase "preferably" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention.

In claim 9, "its front end position" lacks proper antecedent basis. In claim 9, the recitation "and/or" fails to define the metes and bounds of the claim since it is unclear if Applicant is claiming both of the associated functions or one of the associated functions of claim 9. Similarly note claim 12. In claim 23, the "or" recitation fails to define the metes and bounds of the claim since it cannot be determined which of at least one vehicle seat or a vehicle seat arrangement is being positively claimed.

Claim R jections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10 and 23, as best understood with the above cited indefiniteness, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mattarella et al (6089641). Note the seat part (50) and backrest (48).

Claims 1-3 and 9, as best understood with the above cited indefiniteness, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE (19836907). Note the seat part (3), backrest (2), horizontal axis (1b) and rail (5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 7, as best understood with the above cited indefiniteness, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of each of Mattarella et al (6089641) in view of Koide et al (4623192), and DE (19836907) in view of Koide et al (4623192).

Each of the primary references show all claimed features of the instant invention with the exception of a belt lock secured to the seat part that can be moved with the seat part.

Koide et al conventionally teaches providing an adjustable seating assembly with a belt lock (26) secured to a seat part, wherein the belt lock can be moved with the seat part.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify each of the primary references in view of Koide et al by providing a belt lock secured to the seat part, wherein the belt lock is movable with the seat part. Such provides a means for enhancing user safety in various positions of the seating assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 11-22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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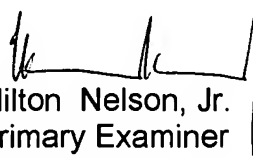
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. A vehicle seating assembly with relatively adjustable back and seating portions is shown by each of Hughes (5531503), Sturt et al (5941602), Richter et al (5482349), Harland et al (5871255), Fourrey et al (5397167), Bauer et al (5979985), Tame (6520581), Siebler (4636003), and McCulloch et al (5904404).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is 7033082117. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30-3:00.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 7033053597 for regular communications and 7033053597 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 7033082168.


Milton Nelson, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

mn
August 11, 2003